

Monster Madness

The Return of the Yeti

The 'Proof': A plaster cast shows a yeti footprint—all 20 inches of it.

Yes, yeti. Kin of Big Foot, these hairy, smelly aberrations are called Skunk Apes when lurking in Fort Myers, South Broward, the Everglades and Tavernier. The Sasquatch hulks in the woods of Washington. The Abominable Snowman tracks up Mount Everest. The Bardin Booger haunts Palatka.¹



Part A. Discuss with your group the following questions.

1. Why do people love stories about monsters?
2. It seems obvious that the *Beowulf* poet's audience believed in the real existence of Grendel and the dragon. Do you believe in the existence of such monsters as Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, the Abominable Snowman?
3. What were some of the real dangers and fears which the Anglo-Saxons had to face? Do you think that the Danes were as successful in defeating them as Beowulf was in defeating the monsters?
4. What dangers and fears do the people of today contend with? How successful have our heroes been in defeating them?
5. Do you think that the love of monster tales may help people symbolically to deal with the evil of the world in which they live?

Part B. Write a narrative in which a modern hero defeats a modern monster.

¹ Geoffrey Tomb, "The Return of the Yeti," *The Miami Herald*, 4 August 1970, 4B.